

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Regular Session on July 27, 2011 in Room 116 of the Administration Building, 1 NE 7th Street, Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Conard at 9:00 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/documents/2011/2011COG.html>

Members Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Paul Samuelson, Mayor, City of Langley
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District

Also Present: Walt Blackford, Puget Sound Energy
Rufus R. Rose, Old Goats
Ron Nelson, Island County Economic Development Council
Gordon Weeks, Whidbey Examiner
Jackie Henderson, Island County Human Services
Lynda Richards, Island County Human Services
Bob Clay, Town of Coupeville/Island Transit

Commissioner Curt Gordon introduced Linda Kast who will provide administrative staff support during the three month period that the Port of South Whidbey is responsible for that task.

Because some COG members have time constraints in the afternoon, Chair Conard suggested a change in the agenda to hold discussion of the Rural Economic Development Funds during the Regular Meeting. If needed, the planned afternoon Workshop could be held for further discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By unanimous motion the minutes of the Regular Meeting May 25, 2011 were approved.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to correct the spelling of the names of the speakers scheduled for the July 27 meeting. *By unanimous motion the minutes of the Workshop Session June 29, 2011 were approved as corrected.*

APPROVAL OF SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION VOUCHERS FOR JUNE AND JULY

Chair Conard distributed copies of the vouchers for June and July. Conard announced that the Coalition had approved a new budget earlier in the day. The Coalition has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from Whidbey Island Bank to support the Whidbey Green Seal Program. *It was moved and seconded to approve payment of the June and July vouchers. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.*

DISCUSSION OF OAK HARBOR'S REQUEST FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR NICHOLS BROTHERS PROJECT

Mayor Slowik asked that Ron Nelson give the update. Nelson reported that the Island County Prosecutor has determined that the project is not eligible for funds. Mayor Slowik will be meeting with Navy officials in the next weeks about the proposed project and will report back to the COG.

The City of Oak Harbor is seeking a low cost way to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. Nelson has contacted four firms seeking cost estimates for preparation of the necessary statements and permits. Mayor Slowik thanked Nelson for his complete and competent work.

DISCUSSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR, AND MANAGEMENT OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Discussion centered on the following:

- The review process for approved applications; annual or more often.
- What would be included in the review process (i.e. standards).
- Who would be involved in the review process.
- Impact of changes in scope or timeline for approved applications.
- Whether to have an annual application period yet accept out of cycle applications.

Commissioner Homola volunteered to work with Nelson to develop the criteria for a new application form and to bring it back to the COG for consideration.

No formal action was taken.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Chair Conard asked for a status report. Lynda Richards reported that they were waiting on signatures. Jackie Henderson stated that the two groups, Homeless Housing Task Force and Affordable Housing, have the goal to become one group – Island County Housing Advisory Board – that would review funding sources and housing issues and prioritize how funds would be disbursed. They have been receiving applications for membership on the board and looking to forming committees.

A draft interlocal agreement toward that regard has been adopted by the City of Langley and the Town of Coupeville. Since that time, Mayor Slowik has suggested changes to the

draft interlocal agreement to retain language from the original interlocal agreement as to funding allocation at 25 percent toward operating costs and 75 percent toward capital. Mayor Slowik stated he does not think an established, appointed formal committee was used to create the draft interlocal agreement but that it was created administratively. He is requesting representation on a formal committee. He would be willing to accept language changes as to the funding allocation from the new Board or a formal committee.

Mayor Samuelson suggested moving forward without the support of Mayor Slowik. Chair Conard asked if the Island County Board of Commissioners was prepared to enact an interlocal agreement with the parties that have adopted it. Commissioner Johnson replied that this would need to be discussed at the next staff session. Commissioner Homola suggested that the language remain flexible to respond to changing needs. Commissioner Johnson confirmed that the draft interlocal agreement has not been rejected by the Oak Harbor council but by Mayor Slowik's office.

Chair Conard declared an impasse. Mayor Samuelson stated that unanimous agreement was not needed.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2011.


APPROVED